

“Unruly Climates, Contested Futures” Imaginaries, Framings, and Politics of Resistance in Europe

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The future—as a research orientation and as a field of activist imaginaries, framings, and politics of resistance—is becoming increasingly important in the social sciences. Since the increasing awareness of the climate crisis and, the emergence of the Fridays For Future movement and Extinction Rebellion in 2018, the question of how a climate-just future can be defined and created, what emotions and images of the future are associated with it, and what sustainable transformation strategies exist, has increasingly become the focus of current analyses. The present crisis is becoming the starting point for exploring what is desirable and possible in the future. This book is interested in two dimensions of a critical diagnosis of the ‘already-here’ climate crisis: On the one hand, it is a creative source for imagining a future that is constructively contested considering contradictions between radical transformation, post-growth and green modernization or imaginaries of right-wing activists on nature and climate. On the other hand, future imaginaries can guide action, provide impetus for collective forms of self-organization and politics of resistance. Collective forms of self-organization range from the climate justice movement, to spontaneous forms of resistance such as guerrilla gardening, to permanent and self-referential forms of self-organization such as eco-villages or volkish settlements. While some activists actively engage with institutional politics through mass mobilization or resistance through civil disobedience, others create (partially) autonomous structures.

The edited book aims to provide an overview on the future imaginaries and politics of resistance of different collective actors. In order to pursue this goal, the book will first show that the still young field of future imaginaries is an analytically fruitful approach for the analysis of current social conflicts and the resulting transformation. Second, the book aims to analyze the relationship between future imagination and politics of resistance. This diversity of collective actors as well as the complementary and overlapping framings of the climate and related strategies illustrate the field of future contestation. Third, it is shown how the intersection of social inequalities leads to different ways collective actors organize themselves. It also allows to analyze to what extent collective actors are able to address and perform intersectionality regarding class, species, disability, *race*, ethnicity, gender, age, and many other identities in the climate crisis and in activism.

Unruly Climates, Contested Futures shall provide the readers with a collection of critical reflections on the challenging questions raised below. We are interested in theoretical and conceptual contributions concerning the work of imagination and transformation, as well as in-depth empirical case studies depicting the different ways in which futures are imagined, and practiced in the European context. More specifically, we encourage the contributors to develop their papers by engaging with the questions and locate themselves in one or two sections:

Section 1: Thinking about the future

- What kind of future imaginaries do collective actors offer in the climate crises?
How do different imaginaries interrelate or contest each other?
- How should we understand the future and the politics of resistance?
What new theoretical approaches need to be considered?
- Which collective actors have existed since the last wave of climate activism in 2018?
How has climate activism changed in recent years?

Section 2: Field of contestation: climate actors between climate movement and right-wing activism

- What are the practices of imagining climate just futures?
What are related politics and strategies of resistance?
Are imaginations shaped by particular alliances with other civil society actors or politicians?
In what ways do they open up new horizons or foster compromise?
- What significance did the collective actors have and how did they influence politics and society?

Section 3: Intersectional activism

- To what extent does an intersectional approach help to understand interweaving inequalities in the climate crisis and future imaginaries? What forms of overlapping inequalities exist and how are they addressed by collective actors?
- To what extent do collective actors strive for and reflect inequality in their politics of resistance? What role does intersectional activism play?

We invite authors to submit an extended abstract of 2–3 pages by the end of February 2025 to the following e-mail address: zukuenfte.der.nachhaltigkeit@uni-hamburg.de

Kindly name 1 or 2 sections where you would assign your abstract.
We would also appreciate receiving a short bio of 150 words.

In case of acceptance, the book chapter should then be submitted in a draft version (6.500 words) **by the end of September**. We plan to discuss the contributions in a hybrid workshop in **October**. The final submission deadline for the articles is **the end of December 2025**.

The book will be published in the series “Zukünfte der Nachhaltigkeit” by Campus Verlag in 2026 (see [here](#)).